

**CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**

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Computer-Based Uniform CPA Examination

In May 2002, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), and Prometric announced the signing of a joint agreement to deliver a computer-based Uniform CPA Examination (CPA Exam). The final paper-and-pencil based CPA Exam will be administered in November 2003. The computer-based Uniform CPA Exam (CBT) is scheduled for implementation in early 2004.

Implementation of the CBT will allow the CPA Exam to incorporate an assessment of critical skills, such as research and communication, increase the emphasis on information technology and general business knowledge, and broaden the scope of the examination in the audit and attest subject areas. In addition, the CBT will provide added exam security and will afford more flexibility to CPA Exam candidates.

Here are some of the anticipated changes that will become effective upon implementation of the CBT:

Test Sites

Prometric will administer the CBT **only** at authorized CPA Exam testing sites throughout the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. California will have approximately 30 testing centers at 13 different locations throughout the state. After receiving approval by the California Board of Accountancy (Board) and submitting the required fees to NASBA, the candidate will be authorized by NASBA to contact Prometric to schedule a specific testing date and time.

Structure

The CPA Exam will continue to be comprised of four-sections. The four CBT sections will correspond to the paper-and-pencil exam sections as follows:

Paper-and-Pencil Examination

Auditing (4.5 Hours)

Financial Accounting & Reporting (4.5 Hours)

Accounting & Reporting (3.5 Hours)

Business Law & Professional Responsibilities
(3 Hours)

Computer-Based Test

Auditing & Attestation (4.5 Hours)

Financial Accounting & Reporting (4 Hours)

Regulation (3 Hours)

Business Environment & Concepts
(2.5 Hours)

For additional information on structure and content, visit www.cpa-exam.org.

Credit Status

The CBT will utilize a “rolling” 18-month credit status system to replace the conditional credit system of the paper-and-pencil exam. Credit status is established by passing one section of the examination. The credit is valid for 18 months from the specific date that the section was passed. As other sections of the CPA Exam are passed, those sections will also have an established credit status date, each of which is valid 18 months from the specific date that the section was passed. Therefore, candidates may establish several different credit status dates, one for each passed section of the exam. A candidate passes the CPA Exam when, within an 18-month period, the candidate attains status credits for all four sections of the CPA Exam.

Conditional Credit Transitioning (Credit Status)

Candidates who have established conditional credit under the paper-and-pencil exam at the May 2001 and any subsequent CPA Exam, will have their conditional credit transitioned into the computer-based test. Credit status for the paper-and-pencil exam will be converted to the corresponding CBT sections as noted under the structure section of this document.

The initial date of CBT has not yet been set. However, it is proposed, and legislation has been drafted, to grant candidates with conditional credit under the paper-and-pencil exam an 18 - month window of time in which to pass the remaining sections of the CPA Exam. The paper-and-pencil based conditional credit will expire 18 months after CBT testing is implemented, or when the candidate fails to pass the unpassed sections in the number of exam attempts remaining, whichever date or time comes first.

Fees

Proposed Fees for the CBT are as follows:

Fees to be Paid to the California Board of Accountancy

First-time Sitter	\$100 for Initial Qualification and Authorization to Test (ATT)
Repeat Sitter	\$ 50 for Authorization to Test (ATT)

Fees to be Paid to NASBA

Auditing and Attestation	\$134.50
Financial Accounting and Reporting	\$126.00
Regulation	\$109.00
Business Environment and Concepts	<u>\$100.50</u>
Total fees paid to NASBA for ALL four sections	\$470.00

Additional Information

- Visit the AICPA Web site at www.cpa-exam.org/global/latestnews.html.
- Visit the NASBA Web site at www.nasba.org.
- As it becomes available, additional computer-based testing information may be found on the Board's Web site located at www.dca.ca.gov/cba.